

What is claimed is:

1. Imparting a texture to a hearing instrument shell.

2. A method of fabricating a hearing instrument, comprising:
 - 5 fabricating a shell comprising an outer surface; and
 - imparting a texture to at least a portion of the outer surface of the shell.

3. A method as set forth in claim 2, where imparting a texture comprises imparting a non-smooth texture.

- 10 4. A method as set forth in claim 2, where imparting a texture comprises imparting a non-reflective finish.

- 15 5. A method as set forth in claim 2, where imparting a texture comprises blasting the surface with an abrasive or grit, or applying ultraviolet light, laser, infrared heat, hot air, or another heat source to the surface.

- 20 6. A method as set forth in claim 2, where:

fabricating a shell comprises fabricating a series of layers; and
imparting a texture comprises applying waveforms to the edges of
one or more of the layers during the process of fabrication.

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7. A method as set forth in claim 2, where:

fabricating a shell comprises fabricating a mold cavity derived from
surface contours of the user's ear; and

imparting a texture comprises modifying the mold cavity to create a
texture in the outer surface.

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8. Imparting a texture to an outer surface of a hearing
instrument.

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9. A method of fabricating a hearing instrument, comprising:
fabricating an outer surface; and
imparting a texture to at least a portion of the outer surface.

10. A method as set forth in claim 9, where imparting a texture
comprises imparting a non-smooth texture.

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11. A method as set forth in claim 9, where imparting a texture

comprises imparting a non-reflective finish.

12. A method as set forth in claim 9, where imparting a texture comprises blasting the surface with an abrasive or grit, or applying 5 ultraviolet light, laser, infrared heat, hot air, or another heat source to the surface.

13. A method as set forth in claim 9, where:
10 fabricating a shell comprises fabricating a series of layers; and
imparting a texture comprises applying waveforms to the edges of one or more of the layers during the process of fabrication.

14. A method as set forth in claim 9, where:
15 fabricating a shell comprises fabricating a mold cavity derived from surface contours of the user's ear; and
imparting a texture comprises modifying the mold cavity to create a texture in the outer surface.

15. A method of fabricating a hearing instrument, comprising:
20 fabricating a shell comprising an outer surface; and
imparting a texture to at least a portion of the outer surface of the

shell, where imparting a texture comprises

blasting the surface with an abrasive or grit; or

applying ultraviolet light, laser, infrared heat, hot air, or

another heat source to the surface.

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16. A method of fabricating a hearing instrument, comprising:

10 fabricating a shell as a series of layers; and

imparting a texture to at least a portion of the outer surface of the

shell,

10 where imparting a texture comprises

applying waveforms to the edges of one or more of the

15 layers during the process of fabrication; or

blasting the surface with an abrasive or grit; or

applying ultraviolet light, laser, infrared heat, hot air, or

15 another heat source to the surface.

17. A method of fabricating a hearing instrument, comprising:

10 fabricating a mold cavity derived from surface contours of the user's

ear; and

20 modifying the mold cavity to create a texture comprising

a series of lines, equally or unequally spaced; or

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a plurality of regular or irregular repeating shapes; or
a predetermined or randomly generated pattern.